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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the Declaration by Heads of State of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) against international terrorism, signed on 16 October 2015 in Burabay, Kazakhstan, during the summit of CIS countries.

On behalf of the CIS member States, I should be grateful if the text of the present Declaration could be issued as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 3 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on combatting international terrorism

We, the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this declaration, express our deep concern at the sharp rise in the activities of terrorist groups, which pose a direct threat to international peace and security and the sovereignty of States.

We consider the massacre of civilians, including hostages, to be incompatible with the norms of humanity and the world's traditional religions. We strongly condemn the wanton destruction by terrorists of historical and cultural monuments and religious sites. Such actions have no justification on any grounds whatsoever.

We are convinced that terrorism can be effectively combated solely on the basis of international law and with the United Nations playing a central and coordinating role. In this regard, we call on all members of the international community to comply strictly with the requirements of the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. We also note the growing significance of the integrated approach to counter terrorism reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular depriving terrorism of the financial, ideological and human resources that sustain it.

We believe that priority should be given to combating international terrorist organizations, primarily Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has unleashed terrible bloodshed, sown chaos and destruction and represents a threat to peace and security. We express our solidarity with multilateral counter-terrorism efforts and support coordinated joint actions in that regard as part of broad international efforts to combat ISIL under the auspices of the United Nations.

We attach great importance to measures limiting the use of the media and the Internet by terrorist groups and persons involved in their activities. Work must be done to enhance national legislation and international legal norms to combat terrorism and suppress propaganda that encourages violence, ethnic intolerance and hatred. It is important to instil within society an understanding of the advantages of cultural diversity and mutual respect.

In that context, we note our common resolve to harness the full potential of cooperation within the framework of CIS and to extend engagement in other multilateral formats and bilaterally for the timely prevention and effective countering of threats arising from terrorist groups, including by suppressing the financing of terrorism and extremism and by combating illegal economic activity and organized crime.

The competent CIS counter-terrorism bodies need to strengthen their joint efforts to prevent, detect and suppress terrorist activities, as well as attempts to draw in vulnerable sectors of society. Other CIS bodies should intensify their work in the interests of comprehensive counter-terrorism.

We express our readiness to cooperate constructively in this area with all interested States and international organizations.

Burabay, 16 October 2015